GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2005
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
WELFARE OF BRICK KILNS WORKERS
Singh Shri Ratan

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing health and labour related facilities to the workers working in Brick and Kilns factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware of the violation of labour laws taking place in such factories located in various places in the country including Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a)to(c): There is no separate law exclusively for brick kiln workers. However, various labour laws are directly or indirectly applicable to these workers. With a view to providing social security to unorganized workers, including brick kiln workers, the Government has enacted the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008.

The Central Advisory Committee constituted under the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 has expressed the view that brick kiln workers and the workers engaged in stone breaking, brick making from fly ash, cement and other materials should be considered as construction workers for the purpose of extending benefits of welfare schemes under the Act. The view of the Central Advisory Committee has been brought to the notice of all States/UT Governments.

The Government has also launched Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yogna (RSBY) to provide health insurance coverage for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. The RSBY has also been extended to the construction workers.

(d)to(f): The brick kiln work falls under the purview of the state sphere and State Governments are empowered to take action for violation of Labour rights of the brick and kiln workers.